

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LANCE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### IN PURSUIT OF PEACE

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, yesterday our President mused about the inevitability built of war, war's instrumentality in the pursuit of peace, and just wars.

It is important for us to reflect on his words, because once we believe in the inevitability of war, war becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. Once we are committed to war's instrumentality in pursuit of peace, we begin the Orwellian journey to the semantic netherworld where war is peace, where the momentum of war overwhelms hopes for peace.

And once we wrap doctrines perpetuating war in the arms of justice, we can easily legitimate the wholesale slaughter of innocents. The war against Iraq was based on lies, the wars in Afghanistan and Pakistan based on flawed doctrines of counterinsurgency. War is often not just; sometimes it is just war. And our ability to rethink the terms of our existence, to explore the possibility of peace without war, may well determine whether we end war or war ends us.

#### CONGRATULATING SUMMIT HILLTOPPERS

(Mr. LANCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Summit Hilltoppers who captured the New Jersey Group 2 North 2 State sectional

football title on December 3 at Giants Stadium.

Coached by John Liberato, the Hilltoppers won a 28-19 victory over the Orange Tornadoes. On offense, the Hilltoppers were led by quarterback Joe Jaskolski and running back Matt Rea. For the game, Jaskolski ran 17 times for 119 yards while completing six pass attempts for 134 yards. Rea finished with 167 yards on the ground and two touchdowns on 16 carries.

The Summit defense was anchored by Pat Birosak, Michael Steinberg, Mike Watts, Ryan O'Malley, Kevin McNany and Danny Feeney, holding Orange to just 19 points.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Coach Liberato and the entire Summit Hilltoppers football team for their victory over Orange to win the State sectional title.

#### STOP RECKLESS SPENDING

(Mr. GINGREY of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, yesterday this House voted on a 2,500-page spending bill with a price tag of almost a half trillion dollars that we will have to borrow. The majority in this House just doesn't seem to get it. We are in the midst of a recession, with 10 percent unemployment, 15.4 million people out of work. Our Federal deficit is over \$12 trillion, and the Democrats will vote next week to raise that another \$1.8 trillion.

Yet this half-trillion-dollar spending bill, which combines six into one, represents a 12.5 percent spending increase over 2009 and a 24 percent increase over 2008; 24 percent over 2008. I ask, How much of this is real needs of our citizens versus just wants of spendthrift politicians?

Madam Speaker, the Democrats must stop this reckless spending spree. We need to have the ability to make tough choices to get our economy back on track and pass legislation that helps American families looking to make ends meet in these tough times.

#### ANTIBIOTICS IN ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

(Mr. BOSWELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOSWELL. Madam Speaker, the United States has the safest, most plentiful, and most affordable food supply in the world. This abundant food supply didn't happen by accident. The United States has put policies and production practices in place which allows us to continue to feed the world at affordable prices.

However, animal agriculture and those production practices are under attack. Some in Congress would ban the use of antibiotics in animal agriculture. As a lifelong farmer still managing a cow-calf operation in Iowa and

former chairman of the Livestock Subcommittee, the use of antibiotics in animal agriculture is an issue I have personally been involved in.

As a livestock producer, I can attest that the industry is committed to using antibiotics responsibly and has developed responsible use guidelines. Producers didn't develop these guidelines because Congress told them to do so. They developed the guidelines because it was the right thing to do for their animals and their consumers.

Those in Congress who would ban the use of antibiotics for nontreatment purposes have a noble goal—improving human health. However, scientific evidence does not exist that this ban would reduce antibiotic resistance in humans. They are looking to penalize an industry without appropriate data to back up their claim.

A 2006 report from the Institute of Food Technologists said “eliminating antibiotic drugs from food animal production may have little positive effect on resistant bacteria that threaten human health.” In fact, eliminating animal antibiotics may be detrimental to public health.

I believe that a ban on non-therapeutic antibiotics in animal agriculture will have detrimental effects, not only on our farmers who feed the world safe and wholesome meat and meat products, but also on public health.

#### UNSUSTAINABLE DEBTS

(Mrs. SCHMIDT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise yet again another day to remind ourselves that this Nation's AAA credit rating is about to be downgraded if we don't stop the spending and continue these unsustainable deficits.

We ran a \$1.4 trillion deficit last year, and we are on the track to do the same this year. Yesterday, this House passed six appropriations bills in an omnibus package with an almost half-a-trillion-dollar price tag. This is 13 percent more than the spending levels of the prior year; 13 percent more, following a bloated trillion-dollar stimulus spending package.

We all want to return our Nation to economic prosperity, but we can't do it and simultaneously run our Nation into a ditch of fiscal financial irresponsibility.

My 1-year-old grandson, Michael, and his generation will never be able to afford the mountains of debt we are accumulating. Moody's Investment Service has warned us to stop it now or lose our AAA credit rating by 2013. This Congress must get the message. Get the message now. Stop the unnecessary spending.

#### WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)